



Alaska Superintendents Association  
Fall Meeting 2016  
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Education Policy Coordinator

# Topics & Format

- 2 topics related to Alaska's State Plan for the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)
- For each topic
  - Background
  - Considerations
  - Table discussion
  - Response



Minimum  $n$ -size

Background

# Minimum *n*-size

- The *n*-size is the number of students needed to be included in accountability data for a particular group.
- A group can be a:
  - School
  - Grade level
  - Subgroup
    - Race/ethnicity
    - Economically disadvantaged
    - English Learners
    - Students with disabilities

# Historical practice in school accountability (through 2011-2012)

## Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP)

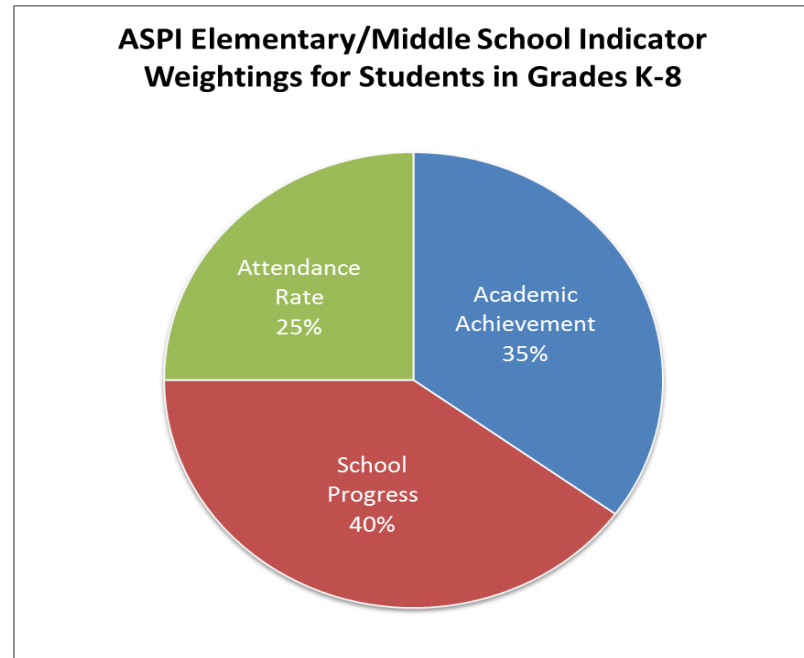
- Participation
  - Minimum  $n = 20$
  - Applied to subgroups only
- Performance
  - Minimum  $n = 25$
  - Applied to subgroups only



# Historical practice in school accountability (2012-2013 & 2013-2014)

## ASPI School Progress indicator

- At least six students in one of four subgroups with valid growth scores
- 10 percent of the overall School Progress score was allotted to that subgroup's growth.



# Historical practice in school accountability (2012-2013 & 2013-2014)

## Annual Measurable Objectives (AMOs)

- At least five students had to receive a valid assessment result in the baseline year for targets to be calculated.
- At least five students had to receive a valid assessment result in subsequent years to determine whether the target was met.

# What does ESSA say?

- Three considerations for determining the minimum  $n$ -size:
  - Do not reveal personally identifiable information
  - Must be statistically sound
  - Shall be the same for all students and each subgroup

# What does ESSA say?

- DEED must report how the minimum *n*-size was determined
- Feedback required from stakeholder groups, including:
  - Teachers
  - Principals and other school leaders
  - Parents
  - Other stakeholders

Minimum  $n$ -size

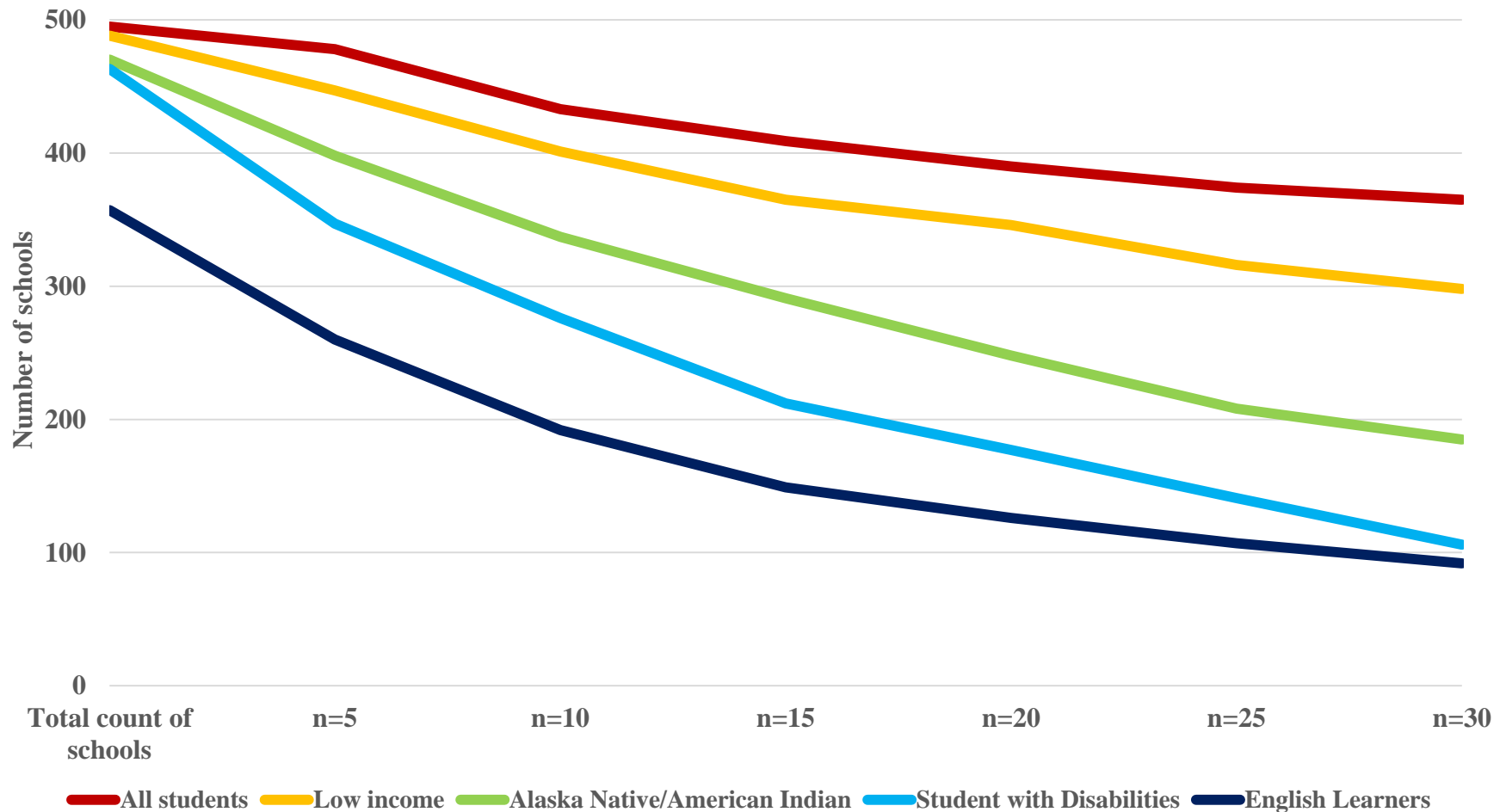
Considerations

# Considerations

- The Alaska Context
- Statistically sound
- Avoid masking subgroup performance

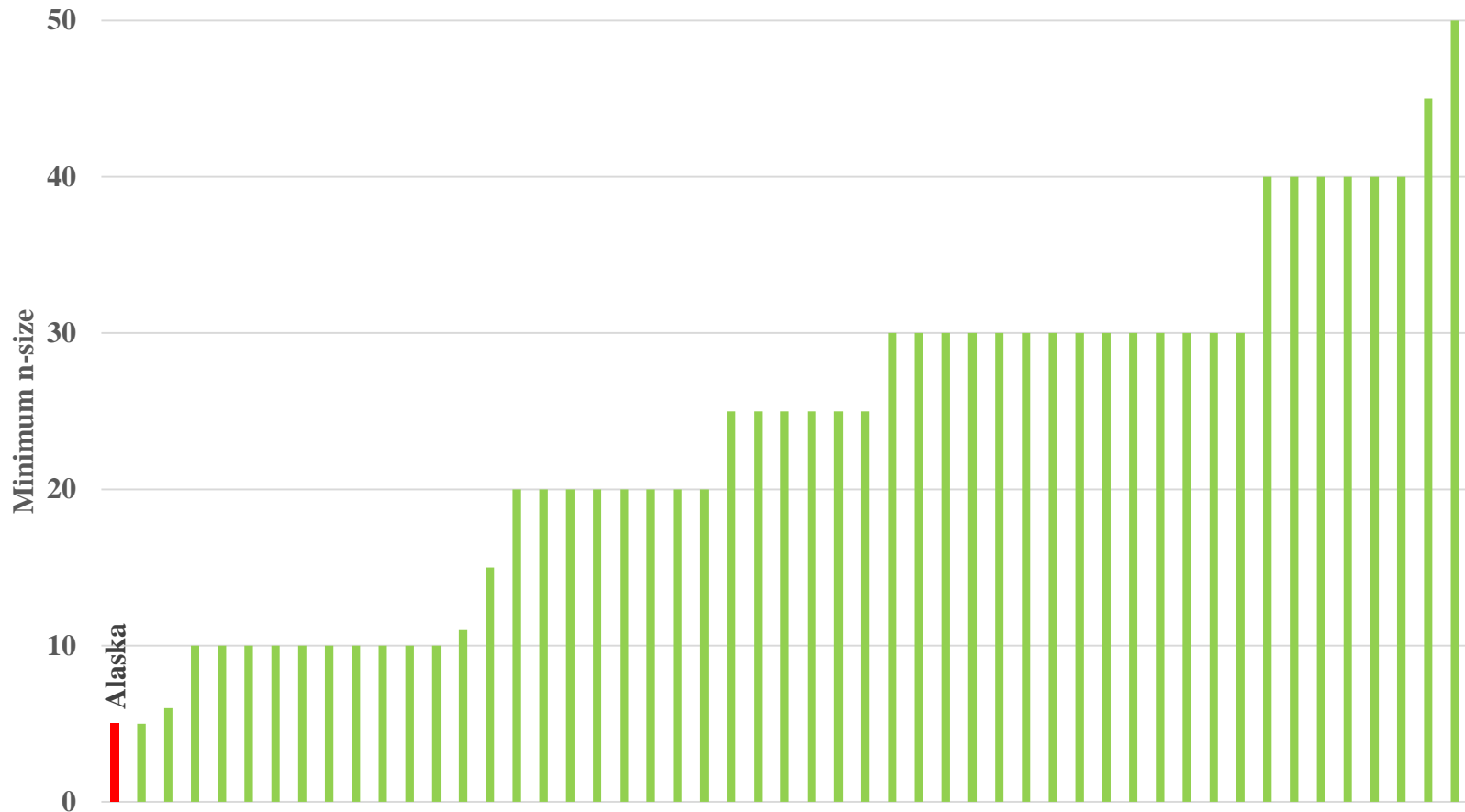


# Effect of $n$ -size on subgroup reporting



Note: Data are from the AMP ELA content assessment in 2015.

# What is the $n$ -size in other states?



Note: Five states have a different minimum  $n$  for different purposes. For this graph, the highest value was displayed.  
Source: Alliance for Excellent Education (<http://all4ed.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/NSize.pdf>)



# Minimum $n$ -size

Discuss & Respond

# Discuss & Respond

- Discuss
  - What concerns do you have regarding *n*-size? Provide examples from your district, if possible.
  - What do you think the “right” *n*-size is? Why?
- Respond
  - On ESSA Response Card



# High School Assessments

Background

# What does ESSA say?

- ELA and math at least once in high school
- High school grades that can be tested now include 9-12
- Alaska has tested in grades 9 and 10 on the ELA/math assessment since 2002.

# High School Assessments

## Considerations

# Measure growth?

- Indicated as important by stakeholders
- If test in grade 9, can measure growth directly from grade 8
- If test in grade 10 or 11, may be possible to calculate growth, but need to look at technical questions



# Measure college- or career-readiness?

- Repeal of college- or career-ready assessment (CCRA) requirement
- If test in 9<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> only, may be possible to offer CCRA as option in grade 11
- If test in grade 11 only, state test could possibly measure college or career readiness

# Some Considerations

- At what grade will high school students most successfully test?
- What grade will give the most useful information?
- Varied course trajectories for math: 10<sup>th</sup> grade?
- Test in 9<sup>th</sup> and/or 10<sup>th</sup> and offer option of CCRA assessment choice in 11<sup>th</sup> grade for possible use in accountability system
- Testing in one high school grade can minimize testing time



# Use of ACT or SAT?

- Use for both assessment requirement and college admissions/planning?
- Equity for students with disabilities or English learners in availability of accommodations and/or equity in not having a college-reportable score?
- Cultural relevance?
- What about career readiness assessment for non-college bound students?
- Most appropriate for grade 11?

# Discuss & Respond

- Discuss

- In what high school grade/grades should Alaska test Why?
- Should Alaska consider using ACT or SAT in 11<sup>th</sup> grade to meet the high school assessment requirement? Why?

- Respond

- On ESSA Response Card

WHAT  
DO  
YOU  
THINK?



# Thank you



*Please make sure we collect your response card.*